

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Committee

AND THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Public Schools

OF THE

TOWN OF CANTON,

For the Year ending April 4, 1870.



BOSTON:

WILLIAM BENSE, PRINTER, 8 CONGRESS SQ.

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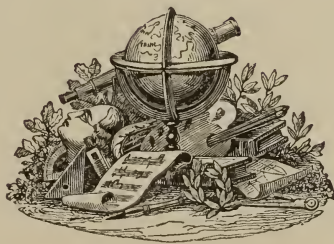
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Report of the School Committee.

THE committee was organized April 5th, 1869, by the choice of J. Mason Everett, chairman, and Samuel B. Noyes, secretary. Samuel B. Noyes was elected Superintendent.

It very soon became apparent that the passage of the Act by the Legislature, abolishing the district system throughout the Commonwealth, would throw upon the committee new responsibilities and add largely to their labors. Chiefly for this reason a code of rules and regulations was, after mature deliberation, adopted, in which the duties of the committee were clearly defined, and a more thorough organization provided for. Under these rules a sub-committee was elected for each school-district, into whose custody was placed the school-house and the property in and about the same, belonging to the town, in his respective district. From the investigation of these sub-committees it became clear that considerable expense must be incurred to place these school-houses in proper condition for the accommodation of those entitled to use them. No appropriation had been made by the town for this purpose. School district funds, however, had been transferred by the operation of the law, to the treasury of the town to the amount of \$422.06. Under these circumstances the committee were unanimous in the opinion that the statute requiring them to "maintain a sufficient number of school-houses *properly furnished* and conveniently located for the accommodation of all the children entitled to attend the public schools;" and to "*keep them in good order* at the expense of the town," should be their guide. Under this authority they have incurred such

expenses, and such only as seemed to them necessary, amounting in round numbers to \$1,100. Of this amount, \$800 has been paid out of the treasury, leaving \$300 to be provided for out of the appropriation for the ensuing year.

The abolition of the districts has enabled the committee, by a re-distribution of the Grammar-school scholars, to reduce the number of Grammar masters to three, and also to avoid the necessity for another Primary school in No. 3.

The amount appropriated for schools last April, was \$7,000.00
Received from State and County, - - - - 595.05

Total, - - - - -	\$7,595.05
The committee have appropriated, for teaching, fuel, and care of school rooms, - - - -	\$7,463.42
Balance unappropriated, - - - - -	\$131.63

This exhibit differs somewhat from that contained in the Report of the Selectmen, for the obvious reason that while the latter deals only with actual payments made during the *town fiscal* year ending March 1st, and covering portions of two *school* years, the former gives the disposition which has been made by the committee of the funds appropriated by the town and received from other sources for the support of schools for the *school* year ending on the first Monday in April.

A fourth class will be admitted to the High School this Spring, and the services of an Assistant in that school will be indispensable.

To continue the schools the same length of time as last year, with an Assistant in the High School and an increase of three dollars per week in the salaries of the three Grammar Masters, a step necessary to retain the services of competent teachers, will require an appropriation by the town for teaching, fuel and care of school-rooms of \$8,000. For repairs of school-houses including \$300 unpaid bills of last year, \$1,325.

The school-committee have held during the school year just closed, twenty-two sessions and in the early part of the year remained in session night after night from 7½ till 10, 11, and sometimes 12 o'clock. The office, whatever it may have been

in former times is now no sinecure,—nor is it one of emolument. Their only and sufficient recompense will be the satisfaction derived from a faithful attempt to discharge their perplexing duties and from the co-operation of an intelligent community.

For a particular account of the condition and progress of the several schools during the past year, the committee would refer to the report of the Superintendent hereto annexed.

J. MASON EVERETT,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
EZEKIEL CAPEN,		
ISAAC HORTON,		
GEO. F. SUMNER,		
JESSE FENNO,		
SAMUEL B. NOYES,		
JOSEPH W. WATTLES,		
GEO. E. DOWNES,		
CHARLES ELLIS.	}	

Superintendent's Report.

THE whole number of schools during the year has been sixteen ; classified as follows, viz :

Three Grammar Schools.

Three Mixed Schools.

Two Intermediate Schools.

Seven Primary Schools.

One High School.

By reference to the table which accompanies this report, the number of pupils, and the average attendance in each school, can be ascertained, as well as the amount received by each teacher as pay, with other statistical information.

The whole number of children in the town on the first day of May, 1869, between the ages of five and fifteen years, was 888 : of which number 477, under the District system, belonged in District No. 3. Under the present system, some changes were made. Pupils were sent to the Grammar school No. 3 from Districts Nos. 5 and 7,—and from No. 3 to the Primary and Intermediate and Grammar schools in Nos. 6 and 7.

Of course there would follow a noticeable change in the character, the make-up, of the schools : those from which the more advanced pupils were taken being apparently deteriorated in rank, while those to whom the accessions were made were gainers or losers, as the case might be.

The absence also from the several Grammar schools, of those pupils who became members of the High school, seemed at first to have lowered their grade, and to cause casual

visitors to remark that these schools were not of so high order as they formerly were. But as the time went on and the plan of the Committee was developed into full working order, the schools have testified to its wisdom.

What is now the especial need of the schools seems to be a more rigid plan of classification, by the working of which a course of study in each branch can be pursued. I have found it impossible in some of the schools to cause the teachers to so classify their pupils as to have that progress made which seemed to me desirable. And this has not been the fault of the teachers; rather it has been their misfortune, arising from the irregular attendance of the pupils, many of whom attend school but a few weeks in a term, and who leave and return during the year after long intervals. This has been more particularly the case in schools Nos. 3 and 6, and slightly in No. 1.

During the year I have made upwards of two hundred visits to the schools, of longer or shorter duration as there seemed to be need. All the schools have been publicly examined twice, which examinations I have attended, and which have been attended also by large numbers of interested friends and parents. The pupils have all furnished themselves with the books prescribed. And none have been admitted who had not been vaccinated. Several schools have been seriously interrupted by the measles, as will appear hereafter in my report.

If all the schools had been as perfect in discipline, and in methods of teaching, as the Committee had desired, it would have been a result never yet reached. I am proud to be able to say that in my opinion, taken as a whole, the schools have been unusually good.

DISTRICT No. 1.—*Canton Corner.*

In District No. 1, the Grammar school has been taught by MR. GEORGE W. CAPEN. The attendance in this school in Winter was nearly double the attendance in Summer. This interfered somewhat with the plan of study, and made the labor of the teacher more arduous, as the classes were necessarily more subdivided.

The deportment throughout the year has been remarkably good. The most noticeable proficiency has been made in Arithmetic, in English Grammar, and in written Compositions.

In the Primary Department,—MISS CHARLOTTE TUCKER, Teacher,—the school has been interesting and thoroughly taught. The good reading of this school was its most noticeable feature.

DISTRICT No. 2.—*Ponkapog.*

MISS MARY L. SAWYER has continued her teaching in this school. The pupils continued to manifest the zeal, enterprise and attention to their studies, which have ever been characteristic of the district. The most noticeable improvement was in reading and written compositions.

DISTRICT No. 3.—*South Canton.*

In District No. 3, the Grammar school commenced under the tuition of MR. HERBERT S. MESSINGER, one of our own young men, educated at Tufts College, whose character, scholarship and correct deportment were a sufficient guaranty of success. Under his instruction the school was making good progress in discipline and culture, when he resigned his charge, to enter upon other pursuits.

MR. ALFRED BYRON ARNOLD was selected as his successor.

Under his tuition the school has maintained a good rank, and is now in very excellent condition.

The first class, in arithmetic, has been over everything from the beginning of fractions to the end of cube root, excepting partnership, exchange and duodecimals. In grammar, from the beginning of etymology to syntax. In parsing they have done but little, having dealt only with nouns, prepositions, articles, and verbs in the indicative mood. In geography, they have been over the British Provinces, Mexico, West Indies, South America, and Europe. In Seavey's Goodrich's U. S. History they have studied the life, voyages and discoveries of Columbus; the conquests of the Spaniards in Mexico and Peru;

the law of nations in regard to newly-discovered countries; an account of the settlement of Jamestown; the first introduction of Slavery in the United States; the first aggressions of England on the Colonies, (Navigation Acts,) and a history of the Plymouth Colony; all of which is included in the first 40 pages.

In the Intermediate school, under the tuition of MISS ALICE M. LOWREY, there has been a steady advance in all the studies, and general good deportment. From this school, as well as from the Intermediate school in No. 7, there are pupils who are ready to be promoted to the Grammar schools.

In the four Primary schools, MISS LUCIE J. ELLIS, MISS EL-DORA A. DRAKE, MISS J. ANNIE BENSE, and MISS ELIZA C. FRENCH have been faithful and successful. Miss Ellis resigned the first Primary at the close of the Fall term, and Miss Bense was elected to succeed her. She proved competent in her new sphere. Measles compelled her to give up her school, the day previous to the last public examination. Nevertheless the school was examined. MISS EUNICE MEADER, elected to succeed Miss Bense, was also successful.

The whole number of pupils belonging to the six schools in this building, is now 355; and, as accessions will be made soon to the Grammar school, which will more than counterbalance the number of those who will probably be admitted to the High school, and as the lower schools will be correspondingly increased, it would seem that there is a necessity for the establishment of another school.

The general good order and deportment of the children in all these schools, throughout the year, have been praiseworthy.

In this connection I desire to suggest that the furnaces should be put in order and used. The use of stoves destroys the architectural proportions of the school rooms, monopolizes the space, and prevents proper ventilation. The atmosphere of the school rooms has been almost intolerable to me, and it cannot be otherwise than noxious, while the present method of warming is pursued.

DISTRICT No. 4.— *York School.*

In District No 4, MRS. EMMA F. GOULD has taught a good school. By reference to the table, it will be seen that the highest number of pupils in Summer has been twenty-three; in Winter, the whole number was sixteen. The average attendance has been fourteen. The proficiency of this little school has surprised and delighted me, and it is no small praise to say of it that two of the best pupils of the High school came from this school last spring.

DISTRICT No. 5.— *Pleasant Street.*

In District No. 5, MISS AMANDA M. HADLEY taught arithmetic with more than the average ability; while there was a commendable degree of study in other branches.

This school should be divided. There should be a Primary department, in which the very young children can receive the training and care they need, and to which they are entitled. The actual time devoted to these young pupils, as the school is now made up, does not average more than an hour for the whole day, out of the five and a half hours during which they are shut up, and the little ones are compelled to sit doing nothing, or worse, for their restlessness is inevitable and disturbs the rest of the school and leads them to acquire bad habits.

DISTRICT No. 6.— *Neposet School.*

The Primary department has been taught by MISS E. FLORANCE FAUNCE, who has now finished the eighth year of her connection with the school.

The deportment of the pupils, their good reading and prompt recitations were, as heretofore, of the highest order of school excellence. The average attendance has been reduced by the prevalence of the measles, which at one time nearly broke up the school.

The Grammar school has had for another year the tuition of MR. JEREMIAH E. EARLE. The industry, fertility of resource and success of this teacher have been heretofore reported. Every study has been thoroughly pursued. In reading, in arithmetic, in geography, in written compositions, in fact in all the branches, the attainments of the pupils received our highest commendation. Nothing has been omitted by the teacher, as it seemed, which could tend to enlist the attention of the pupils, and concentrate it upon their studies.

DISTRICT No. 7.—*Gridley School.*

In the Primary department, taught by MISS IRENE F. BEAUMONT, there was not that degree of order which seemed to me necessary to the complete success of the school. Yet, on the day of the last public examination the school appeared well, and their recitations and reading showed progress.

In the Intermediate department the school was orderly and successful. Under the tuition of MISS ESTHER C. LEONARD, sure and rapid advance was made in all the branches taught; and there pervaded the school an atmosphere of gentleness and refining culture which constantly increased to the end of the year.

HIGH SCHOOL.

HENRY B. MINER, A. M., *Teacher.*

MRS. ABBY J. SNOW, *Assistant Teacher.*

The High School was placed, at the beginning of the school year, in the elegant and capacious edifice erected for it, by the efficient Committee appointed by the town; and I might properly here allude to the well-directed and gratuitous labors of that Committee, who gave their time, labor and experience, (not to say money,) towards the erection of the High School

Building. And perhaps I ought to do so; for, without the formal dedicatory services, such as are usual, the use and care of the beautiful building,—beautiful in structure and location,—were quietly and without ostentation, passed over by them into the hands of the School Committee. There was no parade, no nonsense, about it. The School Committee accepted it, and the High School occupied it, just as a family would move into and occupy a house, built and furnished for its habitation; or, as a boy would put on and wear a pair of new boots; or a girl would put on a new dress, which their parents had furnished them. That is the way in which our sons and daughters entered upon the occupation of the new High School House.

At the commencement of the Spring term, a new class was added to the High school, making four classes in all. At the end of the first week, it was thought advisable to have an assistant teacher, and MRS. ABBY JANE SNOW, of Canton, was employed in that capacity for the remainder of the term. Mr. Miner placed a part of the recitations of each class in charge of Mrs. Snow, each scholar reciting in some studies to the one teacher, and in the remainder to the other.

The First class commenced Botany, and made considerable progress in analyzing flowers; they continued the study of English Literature, committing to memory, brief synopses of the works and lives of eminent authors, as given in the Text Book. They also read aloud in the class, selections made from a more extended reading of each given author's writings, both from the text book and from complete editions whenever they could gain access to them. Their instruction in this branch of study was eminently intelligent and complete.

After finishing Magill's French Reader, they read about half of a popular French work "The Romance of a Poor Young Man." They finished the text book in Astronomy, drawing the Star maps on the black-boards. They made some progress in tracing the constellations, and, their examination in French, Botany and Astronomy, by the chairman and myself, was thorough and satisfactory. In fact the class received, as it deserved our highest encomiums of praise.

The Second class finished Plane Geometry, going over the study thoroughly. They continued the study of Rhetoric, writing frequent exercises in English, and continued Virgil, devoting a proper degree of attention to grammatical construction and Prosody.

The Third class went through pure quadratics in Algebra; commenced Physical Geography, and continued English Grammar, Parsing, Reading and Spelling.

The Fourth class were thoroughly drilled in Greenleaf's National Arithmetic as far as they went; and studied English Grammar and Geography. The assistance rendered by Mrs. Snow enabled the Principal to devote more attention to their reading, writing and spelling.

The close of the Summer term was remarkable in that it was the termination of the labors of Mr. Miner and the final term of the first or graduating class.

It is pleasant to me, to dwell upon the characteristics of Mr. Miner. For, he came nearer to my ideal of a school teacher than any man whom I had ever known, in an experience of school supervision, extending over a period of twenty-one years. He needed no superintendence; he superintended himself. He had the enthusiasm of youth. In our own schools he had first developed his rare capacity and talent for teaching. He was growing all the time, and the school which you had established grew with his growth. So I watched with interested eye, and with little attempt at dictation, its progress under his tuition. His record is well rounded. The course of study which the Committee had prescribed was well finished by the graduating class. Their examination from time to time, and their performance on their last day, showed that they had been faithfully taught. *Acti labores jucundi.*

SECOND TERM.—JOHN F. CASEY, A. B., *Teacher.*

The second term of the High School commenced under the new teacher, JOHN F. CASEY, A. B., Sept. 6th, with forty scholars, to which number five were added the next week.

Owing to the fact that Thanksgiving was appointed early in November, this term lasted but ten weeks ; at the expiration of which time, there was a public visitation, many of the branches not having been reviewed, and none of the classes thoroughly reviewed and prepared for a strict examination.

The third term commenced Nov. 22, and continued sixteen weeks, till March 11, when there was a public examination, lasting all day. The class which entered the school at the beginning of the year have, besides writing and general exercises, completed the geography, arithmetic, and natural philosophy, except a few pages of optics and a little of the last of the book, comprising astronomy, which subject will be taken up at another part of the course. They have also made a good beginning of one hundred and twenty five pages in algebra. About the middle of the year, this class commenced the study of latin, and they are now familiar with the principal parts of the grammar, and are now able to translate and construe short, simple sentences.

The second class have finished the algebra, rhetoric, and five books of geometry ; have studied book-keeping one term, being able to dispose of ordinary accounts, both by single and double entry ; they also commenced latin at the beginning of the second term, and will probably be able to begin Virgil the next term, sometime.

The first class have read six books of Virgil's *Æneid*, being able to translate fluently, construe and scan ; they have finished the chemistry and have become familiar with the general principles of the French language, and have translated fifty pages, more or less, of the French reader. All the classes have written compositions, and have had a general exercise in spelling and definitions ; the boys have also had declamations.

The scholars, with a very few exceptions, have a good interest in their studies, and in the school, and though during the last term, there have been many attractions which have interfered with school duties, some seriously, the scholars have been able to learn more than their teacher has had time to hear well, and he has consequently remained, on an average, about an

hour after school, every day, to complete explanations, hear lessons, and drill boys in declamations.

We have seen it somewhere stated that the teachers of the present day were divided into two classes, those who hear recitations and those who teach. Mr. Casey is of the latter class. His method of instruction has been entirely satisfactory, and successful.

It may well be a subject for congratulation that the teachers of this school, so far, have been both good scholars, and of scholarly tastes; for it is wonderful to note how quick pupils are to discern eminence of attainments, and to yield homage to their possessor. They soon discern "who hath the art and proper eloquence," as says Milton, "to catch them with, what with mild and effectual persuasion, and what with intimation of some fear, if need be, but chiefly by his own example, in a short space gain them to an incredible diligence, infusing into their young breasts such an ingenuous and noble ardor as will not fail to make many of them renowned and matchless men."

DISCIPLINE.

The regulation of the Committee which requires the several teachers to keep a record of the infliction of corporal punishment, for the inspection of the Superintendent, has had a good effect. And it is a matter for congratulation that we can and do find teachers who can govern their schools without constantly resorting to the use of the rod and the ferule. To be sure it must be the last resort, the "*ultima ratio regum*," but the records of the schools during the past year have shown that, discipline, wholesome and salutary, can be enforced with comparatively little resort thereto! Think of it, the little white hands which fathers and mothers affectionately kiss, blistered with blows! Think of it, a full grown man or woman coming down upon the powerless frame of an infant boyhood or girlhood with stripes which the "Society for the Protection of An-

imals'' prosecutes in the Courts when inflicted on brute beasts !

It is a pleasing commentary on the civilization, and refinement, and Christian culture of our families, whose children are gathered in the schools, as well as on the discretion and self-poise of our teachers, that no severe corporal punishment has been inflicted, nor has it seemed necessary.

If I should say that all the schools had been, in every particular, satisfactorily taught during the entire year, it would be saying more than ever has been said, and more than, under the circumstances you could expect me to say. No man, in any business, trade or occupation, when he reviews the events of a year past, is entirely and completely satisfied with what he has done, or with what he has been concerned. There is always something to be regretted, as having been omitted, or but partially attended to, and, in proportion as the desire is more or less great to produce the utmost good, so the disappointment is greater, and, whether there are reasons for such disappointed feelings, or not, they are sure to be felt. The most successful teachers are those who are never completely satisfied with the results of their teaching.

Yet there is a certain kind of contentment which an experienced mind learns to rely upon, which comes to all who are seeking to obey and follow the promptings of a pure conscience, and who, having done their present duty, as directed by its unerring instinct, are willing to rest there and abide the results.

SAMUEL B. NOYES.

AT a meeting of the School Committee of Canton, held March 28th, 1870, the foregoing Report of the Superintendent was read and considered, and it was voted that it be adopted and printed as the Report of the School Committee.

ATTEST,

SAMUEL B. NOYES,

SECRETARY OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF CANTON.

TEACHERS.	DISTRICTS.	No. in School.		Average Attendance.		Over 15 years.	Under 5 years.	Whole No. between 5 and 15, May 1, 1869.	Length of School in Months.		Total of Months.	Wages of Teachers.		Amount of Money paid for Teaching.	Cost of Fuel and care of School Houses.
		Summer.	Winter.	Summer.	Winter.				Summer.	Winter.		Summer.	Winter.		
Charlotte Tucker.....	{ 1	P. 34	27	27	17		1	78	6	4	10	\$28.00	\$28.00	{ \$760.00	\$124.97
Geo. W. Capen.....		G. 38	48	27	37	12		6	6	4	10	48.00	48.00		
Mary L. Sawyer.....	{ 2	M. 39	50	32	43	4	2	52	6	4	10	32.00	32.00	{ 320.00	51.12
Herbert S. Messinger...		G. 30	42	27	35	3		53	53	4	93	68.00	68.00		
Alfred B. Arnold.....	{ 3	Int. 46	42	37	35			477	6	4	10	32.00	32.00	{ 320.00	280.00
Alice M. Lowrey.....		1st. 48	48	40	38			6	33	4	93	28.00	28.00		
Lucie J. Ellis.....	{ 3	2d. 61	58	46	46			6	4	4	10	28.00	28.00	{ 280.00	288.07
J. Annie Benne.....		3d. 61	69	58	55			6	6	4	10	24.00	28.00		
Eldora A. Drake.....	{ 4	4th. 89	84	73	62			6	6	4	10	24.00	28.00	{ 266.00	266.00
J. Annie Benne.....		M. 23	16	21	14	1	2	35	6	4	10	32.00	32.00		
Emmie Mender.....	{ 5	M. 41	47	33	35		3	59	53	4	93	32.00	32.00	{ 320.00	44.50
Eliza A. French.....		G. 49	49	37	43	1		104	6	4	10	56.00	56.00		
Emma F. Gould.....	{ 6	P. 80	70	63	48			83	6	4	10	28.00	28.00	{ 280.00	88.50
Amanda F. Hadley.....		Int. 43	51	35	38	2	2	6	6	4	10	32.00	32.00		
Jeremiah E. Earle.....	{ 7	P. 54	49	40	34			6	6	33	93	28.00	28.00	{ 273.00	119.72
E. Florence Fannuc.....		Int. 43	51	40	34			6	6	4	10	28.00	28.00		
Esther C. Leonard.....	{ 7	P. 54	49	40	34			6	6	4	10	28.00	28.00	{ 1374.00	127.86
Irene F. Beaumont.....		H. 51	43	43	39	29	2	6	6	4	10	140.00	120.00		
H. B. Miner, A. M.....	{ 7							888	631	631	159	\$692.00	\$648.00	{ \$6,570.00	\$893.42
J. F. Casey, A. B.....								951	631	631	159	\$692.00	\$648.00		
		787	783	639	619	53	10	888	951	631	159	\$692.00	\$648.00		

